THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Special category status to states

†5073. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA :

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have been placed in the special category with a view to provide financial assistance;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-inclusion of Rajasthan therein, while it has been affected by natural calamities; and

(c) whether Government propose to include it in the special category for providing financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Eleven States have been categorised as special category States for the purpose of allocating Central Assistance for State Plan. They are : Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal.

(b) Special category State status has been accorded to those States which generally fulfil the following criteria: (i) hilly and difficult terrain, (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, (iii) strategic location along borders with neighboring countries, (iv) weak resources base, and (v) overall economic and infrastructural backwardness. Most of these States have been formed from small Union Territories or districts of some other States Occurrence of natural calamities in a State is not a part of the existing criteria of according special category status.

(c) There is no proposal before Government for including Rajasthan in the list of special category States.

+ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.